



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 17 2015

Mr. Steven D. Sandven  
Steven D. Sandven Law Offices  
3600 South Westport Ave.  
Suite 200  
Sioux Falls, SD, 57106

Office of  
International and  
Tribal Affairs

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request No. HQ-FOI-2015-009793, Request to Clarify  
or Modify an Improper Request

Dear Mr. Sandven:

This letter concerns the above-referenced Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, received by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on August 11, 2015, in which you requested information regarding reserved water rights held by federally recognized Indian tribes.

Your request does not reasonably describe the records you are seeking in a way that will permit EPA employees to identify and locate them. For example, the request isn't bound by tribe, time, or location.

EPA's FOIA regulations state:

"Whenever possible, your request should include specific information about each record sought, such as the date, title or name, author, recipient, and subject matter. If known, you should include any file designations or descriptions for the records that you want. The more specific you are about the records or type of records that you want, the more likely EPA will be able to identify and locate records responsive to your request."  
40 C.F.R. § 2.102(c).

We would like to provide you the opportunity to clarify the records that you are seeking so that EPA can process your request. As indicated in 40 C.F.R. § 2.102(c), please include any specific information about the records you seek, including time period, authors, or a more detailed description of the records' subject matter. Additionally, the FOIA does not require federal agencies to respond to questions so please consider that as you are modifying your request.

Please contact EPA staff Inga Owens (Barnett-Owens.Inga@epa.gov) with your clarification.

Sincerely,

Karin Koslow  
Deputy Director, EPA American Indian Environmental Office